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surmounted by a bust was placed on the interior wall of the church, and services in honor of the philosopher, in which several scientific men took part, were held at the time of the unveiling. Priestly was not only one of the fathers of modern chemistry; it was also as a philosopher and theologian, and as one of the founders of the first Unitarian Church of Philadelphia, that he was honored on this occasion. Though this act of appreciation has come too late for him to enjoy, it will encourage others to contribute their share to the progress of mankind.

RECENT LITERATURE.

LANG'S COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.¹—This is the beginning of an entirely new edition of Schmidt's Comparative Anatomy, and so far as one may judge from a single part, it is to be ranked among the best of the recent text books. On every page there is a freshness both in treatment and illustration which is pleasing, while the text reads almost like a story. There is one noticeable feature in the work; it is logical in its arrangement. Thus we have as an introduction a couple of pages of an account of the cell followed by twenty on the Protozoa; next the student is introduced to the egg and spermatozoan, cell complexes and tissues, a few words concerning the Metazoa, and with this preparation we are led to the Cœlenterates and thence to the higher forms. Several features, which though not exactly new, we do not recall in any text book, are introduced into the classification, and are usually to be regarded as improvements. Thus the division of the Cnidaria (—Cœlenterata *s. str.*) into Hydrozoa, Scyphozoa and Ctenophora and the limitation of the first two of these by the character of the œsophagus (ento, or ectodermal) is a valuable feature, though it disarranges our preexisting ideas and transfers the Craspedota from the Hydrozoa to the neighborhood of the sea anemones and corals. So too the separation of the Plathelmintha from the Vermes is *certainly* to be warranted on morphological grounds. The present part of the work considers only the Protozoa, Cœlenterata, Plathelmintha, and Vermes, but if

¹ Lehrbuch der vergleichenden Anatomie, von Dr. Arnold Lang. Erste abtheilung, June, 1888, pp. 290.

the succeeding parts treat the other groups as well, the whole will certainly prove a success.

BIRDS OF IOWA.—In the proceedings of the Davenport Academy Natural Sciences for 1888, there appears a catalogue of the birds of Iowa, with notes.¹ It is published only as a preliminary list and so escapes most of the criticism that might be offered, were it simply presented as a complete summary of extended observations.

Although it is offered only as *preliminary*, yet it is the most complete and reliable list that has so far appeared. It shows the authors to be familiar with the habits and habitats of all the common birds of the state and also that they have a good knowledge of many that are rare.

The authors enumerate 255 species as coming under their personal observation. Among this number are many species which have not been heretofore recorded as having been observed in Iowa, although from their known geographical distribution it was naturally supposed that they were to be found here. The maximum number of species *probably* found in the state including summer and winter visitors and Sea-birds migrating north by way of the Mississippi river,—is not much above 350.

Taking into account the fact that the collections and observations, upon which this list is based, were made chiefly in the vicinities of Charles City, Des Moines, and Iowa City, all situated in the interior of the state, and thus not affording a good opportunity for the study of many of the water birds, the work shows itself to be the result of much time and study.

For the reason just stated the list is most deficient in water birds. It is especially complete in Passerine species, when we consider the number of summer and winter, as well as Western visitors this order affords.

That the comparative completeness of the list may be readily seen the following list is appended. The first column gives the number of species which are probably to be found in the state as compiled from the known geographical distribution. The second column contains the number given in the catalogue of Messrs. Keyes and Williams.

Pygopodes.....	10	4
Longipennes.....	22	5
Steganopodes.....	7	2
Anseres.....	43	26

¹ A preliminary circulated catalogue of the birds of Iowa, by Charles R. Keyes and H. S. Williams M.D. Prof. Davenport Acad. Nat. Sci. Vol. V.